

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A host cell comprising a vector which comprises:
 - (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the erythropoietin polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (b) a viral promoter; and
 - (c) a viral terminator.
2. The host cell deposited as DSM ACC2397.
3. The host cell of claim 1, wherein said viral promoter and viral terminator comprises an early promoter and terminator of a SV40 virus.
4. The host cell of claim 1, wherein said vector comprises pVex 1.
5. The host cell of claim 1, further comprising a pDHFR vector.
6. The host cell of claim 4, wherein said host cell is resistant to neomycin-derived antibiotics and methotrexate.
7. The host cell of claim 1, wherein said host cell is a mammalian cell.
8. The host cell of claim 7, wherein said mammalian cell is selected from the group comprising: CHO, COS, BHK, Namalwa, HeLa, Hep3B, Hep-G2 or other mammalian cells.
9. The host cell of claim 1, wherein said host cell comprises a CHO or COS cell.
10. The host cell of claim 1, wherein said host cell comprises a CHO cell.

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11. A method for producing an EPO polypeptide, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 1 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed and recovered.

5 12. The method of claim 11, wherein such conditions comprise exposure to methotrexate.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said culture produces more than 50 mg of EPO per liter of culture medium per day.

14. The host cell of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is obtained from human white blood cells.

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